



# SOUTHWEST REGION

## MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

### SEPTEMBER 2022

#### Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Projected to have the most annual total job openings

**over 2,000**

#### Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Most grade A and B annual openings

**over 2,000**

#### Legal Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs Concentration

**100%**

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on outlook over the next decade. **Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and average wages.** Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Southwest region is projected to have more than 12,500 annual job openings through 2030. The vast majority (98%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations earn more and have higher growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 37 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations, and are projected to grow more than three times faster than the average growth rate.

#### *Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades*

##### **Grade A**

**1,976 Job Openings**  
**\$55,832 Average Wage**

##### **Grade B**

**6,715 Job Openings**  
**\$41,476 Average Wage**

##### **Grade C**

**3,558 Job Openings**  
**\$35,563 Average Wage**

#### *Top Outlook Occupation Groups*

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Transportation & Material Moving	<b>2,065</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>97%</b>
Food Preparation & Serving Related	<b>1,517</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>86%</b>
Sales & Related	<b>1,484</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>59%</b>
Production	<b>1,459</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>46%</b>
Healthcare Support	<b>550</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>97%</b>
Education, Training, & Library	<b>525</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>96%</b>
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	<b>499</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>85%</b>
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	<b>496</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>82%</b>
Management	<b>432</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>94%</b>
Office & Administrative Support	<b>1,241</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>26%</b>
Personal Care & Service	<b>412</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>67%</b>
Construction & Extraction	<b>406</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>66%</b>
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	<b>415</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>60%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	<b>290</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>76%</b>
Computer & Mathematical	<b>117</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>87%</b>

# Southwest Top Grade Jobs

**Now** Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Fast Food & Counter Workers 🔥	779	8.9%	\$22,681
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	482	-0.4%	\$27,566
B+	Home Health & Personal Care Aides 🔥	463	15.6%	\$24,470
B	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand 🔥	440	6.0%	\$30,274
B+	Stockers & Order Fillers 🔥	303	10.6%	\$27,575
B	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	299	4.0%	\$27,181
B	Waiters & Waitresses	242	12.6%	\$22,613
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	221	3.0%	\$32,139
A	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	199	38.8%	\$35,601
A	Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	141	18.1%	\$30,232

**Next** Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate-to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	590	24.1%	\$44,944
A	Cooks, Restaurant	254	40.7%	\$24,955
B	Food Batchmakers	191	-0.8%	\$33,350
A	Sales Representatives of Services	153	11.8%	\$57,478
B+	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General 🔥	151	5.7%	\$38,066
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	124	-5.5%	\$41,413
A	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers 🔥	109	6.0%	\$54,290
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	105	11.2%	\$23,596
B	Electrical, Electronic, & Electromechanical Assemblers	94	7.2%	\$33,407
A	Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	91	25.9%	\$28,014

**Later** Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	General & Operations Managers 🔥	211	10.7%	\$75,239
B+	Registered Nurses 🔥	172	5.0%	\$49,610
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	121	12.4%	\$41,278
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	93	11.9%	\$46,046
B+	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	81	16.0%	\$27,071
B+	Accountants & Auditors 🔥	67	6.4%	\$63,658
B+	Coaches & Scouts	44	25.1%	\$34,440
B	Middle School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	43	11.6%	\$47,926
A+	Software Developers & Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers 🔥	38	25.7%	\$93,002
B	Human Resources Specialists	34	7.3%	\$55,828

Flame icon indicates occupations with high numbers of online job ad postings in 2021.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™ Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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